

FILED

JAN 16 2026

KATHERINE M. KEEFE
MCHENRY CTY. CIR. CLK.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2026-03

**TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS, the 22nd Judicial Circuit consists of one county, that being McHenry County, Illinois;
and

WHEREAS, McHenry County has a population of less than 1,000,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2025, Public Defender, Mark G. Cook, formally announced he was resigning from the Office of Public Defender after nearly 34 years of public service for both the 19th and 22nd Judicial Circuits. Mr. Cook's last day in office will be February 6, 2026; and

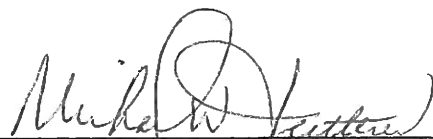
WHEREAS, Section 3-4004 of the Counties Code states, in pertinent part:

“As soon as may be after this Division becomes applicable to a county with a population under 1,000,000, the judges of the Circuit Court of the circuit in which the county is located shall, by a majority vote of the entire number of those judges, appoint to the office of Public Defender a properly qualified person, who shall hold office, his death or resignation not intervening, at the pleasure of the judges competent to appoint. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office it shall be filled in the same manner, and the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall have the same tenure in office.” 55 ILCS 5/3-4004.

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2026, the Circuit Court Judges of the 22nd Judicial Circuit, by majority vote, appointed RICHARD A. BEHOF to be this Circuit's next Public Defender.

IT IS ORDERED: Effective February 7, 2026, **RICHARD A. BEHOF** shall be the Public Defender of the 22nd Circuit, McHenry County, Illinois, and he shall serve at the pleasure of the Circuit Court Judges of the 22nd Judicial Circuit.

DATED: 1/16/26



**MICHAEL W. FEETTERER
CHIEF JUDGE**